

The Pulmonary Circulation Foundation

Conferences, Education and Research

2360
VA Medical Center (111C)
54th Street & 48th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

February 22, 1988

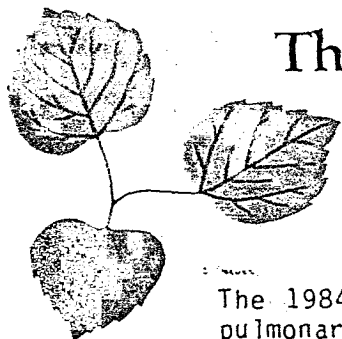
Harmon McAllister
Research Director
Council for Tobacco Research
USA, Inc.
900 3rd Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. McAllister:

I enjoyed having the opportunity to talk with you last week. We discussed the Grover Conferences on the Pulmonary Circulation, which you said the Council for Tobacco Research might be able to support. I am enclosing the final program for the 1988 meeting. At present we have half of the \$30,000.00 necessary to hold the 1988 conference. Any help which you can give us would be greatly appreciated. The following paragraphs will give you some details of the format of these conferences.

Dr. John T. Reeves (Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado Medical School) and I organize a conference every second year, devoted to some aspect of the Pulmonary Circulation. The conference is conducted under the auspices of the Pulmonary Circulation Foundation, which is recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt, publicly supported organization. The topic selected for 1988 is "The Control of Cell Proliferation in the Pulmonary Circulation." An understanding of this subject is crucial, not only in devising rational treatment for pulmonary hypertension, but also for systemic hypertension. Treatment based on vasodilators alone, ignores the extensive endothelial and smooth muscle proliferation seen in both forms of hypertension. The effect of several vasodilators on cell growth may be as important as the vasodilatation they induce. The cell proliferation to be discussed at the conference is also important in the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, asthma and carcinogenesis.

The purpose of the conferences is to bring together 30-40 leading researchers in the areas of cell biology, pharmacology, physiology, pathology, cardiology, and pulmonary medicine. The format of the meeting is designed to promote discussion between workers of very different backgrounds. More details of these conferences are given in the editorial (enclosed) at the beginning of the October, 1985 supplement to Chest, (Chest 88:199S-272S, 1985).



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The 1984 conference, published in Chest, examined many aspects of pulmonary vascular reactivity. The participants were scientists of international standing, including Dr. C.A. Wagenvoort, Dr. Una Ryan, Dr. Sami Said, Dr. Robert Furchgott, and Dr. Norman Staub. This conference was supported by a grant from Pfizer, Inc.

The 1986 conference, which was published last year in the American Review of Respiratory Disease, discussed the role of "Lipid Mediators in the Pulmonary Circulation." The participants included Dr. W.E.M. Lands, Dr. J.C. McGiff, Dr. P.M. Henson, Dr. J.E. Repine, Dr. H. Sies, and Dr. K.L. Brigham. The travel and accomodation of the participants was paid by a grant from Burroughs Wellcome Company (\$30,000.00).

A summary of the 1984 conference was published in the European Journal, "Clinical Respiratory Physiology" (Bull. Eur. Physiopathol. Respir. 21:583-590, 1985). The proceedings of the 1988 conference will be peer reviewed and published in the American Review of Respiratory Disease.

Dr. Reeves and I have published a book on "Pulmonary Hypertension" (Futura, N.Y., 1984) and another, on "Pulmonary Vascular Physiology and Pathophysiology," (Marcel Dekker, N.Y.) will be published this year, so the editing of the papers from the conferences poses no problem.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

E. KENNETH WEIR, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
University of Minnesota
School of Medicine

Enclosure